

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 IO-11 /077 W

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R 141540Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2839

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 553

CAPE TOWN FOR AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, AO, NI, US

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE RETURNS HOME FROM ADDIS

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REF: ADDIS ABABA 431

1. FMG HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED AND REST OF NIGERIAN DELEGATION TO OAU SUMMIT RETURNED TO LAGOS JANUARY 13, ACCOMPANIED ON FLIGHT BY PRESIDENT LOUIS CABRAL OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND FREDRIC PERES, PRIME MINISTER OF CAPE VERDE ISLAND. LATTER TWO MADE SHORT STOPOVER PRIOR CONTINUING ON TO OWN COUNTRIES. DELEGATION MET AT AIRPORT BY LT. GENERAL OBASANJO, TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER LT. COL. YAR 'ADUA, LAGOS STATE GOVERNOR CAPTAIN LAWAL, INFORMATION COMMISSIONER HARUNA AND OTHER SMC MEMBERS. MUHAMMED MADE NO RPT NO PUBLIC REMARKS AT AIRPORT BUT INDICATED SPECIAL OFFICIAL STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED LATER IN WEEK.

2. IN CONTRAST NIGERIAN SILENCE, GUINEA-BISSAU PRESIDENT WAS GOOD DEAL MORE VOLUBLE. SPEAKING THROUGH INTERPRETER TO NEWSMEN AT AIRPORT,

CABRAL CALLED ON AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORTED MPLA TO MEET TO DRAW UP COMMON LINE OF ACTION. HE DISAGREED THAT ADDIS MEET HAD BEEN TOTAL FAILURE (IT OFFERED OPPORTUNITY DEBATE PROS AND CONS OF ANGOLA) AND EXPRESSED BELIEF MPLA WOULD EVENTUALLY EMERGE VICTORIOUS FROM STRUGGLE WITH IMPERIALIST FORCES. CABRAL INDICATED THAT THE AID EXTENDED TO MPLA BY HIS AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD DEPEND ONLY ON NATURE OF MPLA REQUEST. HE SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING THAT SUCH REQUEST SHOULD COME BEFORE THE PROPOSED MEETING OF PRO-MPLA SUPPORTERS. IN BRIEF FOLLOWING SPEECH, CAPE VERDE PRIME MINISTER UNSURPRISINGLY SAID VIEWS HIS GOVERNMENT ON ANGOLA IDENTICAL WITH GUINEA-BISSAU'S.

3. COMMENT: LOCAL PRESS IN SUBDUED MOOD TODAY, GENERALLY PORTRAYING OAU SUMMIT AS INDECISIVE FAILURE IN NEWS ACCOUNTS. PRESS PRESUMABLY WAITING FOR GUIDANCE VIA PROMISED FMG SPECIAL STATEMENT. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA'S REFTEL ASSESSMENT THAT MPLA SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING NIGERIANS, WILL SEEK INDENTIFY CAUSE OF AND LAY BLAME FOR SUMMIT DEADLOCK. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF USG WERE TO BE MADE SPECIAL TARGET BY FMG IN ITS FORTHCOMING OFFICIAL STATEMENT.
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